

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 18, and 20-35 are pending in the present application; Claims 13, 14, 16, 18, and 20-24 having been amended, Claims 26-35 having been added, and Claims 15, 17 and 19 having been canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Title was objected to, the Brief Description of the Drawings was objected to, Claim 24 was objected to, and Claims 13-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wied (U.S. 2,752,002), Claims 13-16 and 18-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0012586), and Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al., or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Iwata et al. in view of Freeman (U.S. 4,452,381).

The Title was objected to as not being descriptive. In response to this objection, the Title has been amended. Accordingly, the objection to the Title is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The Brief Description of the Drawings was objected to. In response to this objection, the Brief Description section has been amended to include paragraph breaks, as requested. Accordingly, the objection to the Brief Description is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claim 24 was objected to due to an issue with the preamble. In response to this objection, Claim 24 has been amended so that the end of the preamble is clear. Accordingly, the objection to Claim 24 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wied. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention of Claim 13 is directed towards a storage container. A storage container comprises a bag and a sheet. The sheet has:

a higher rigidity than the bag, the sheet being without folds and on a side of the bag which is perpendicular to the opening of the bag, the sheet including a plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line on an outer peripheral surface, are configured to receive fingers of a user and are for gripping the storage container.

In contrast to the sheet recited in Claim 13, Wied includes a reinforcing strip 21. This reinforcing strip has folds, does not have a plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line on an outer peripheral surface and are configured to receive the fingers of a user, and is not on a side of the bag which is perpendicular to the opening of the bag.

The other independent claims have analogous features. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Wied is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

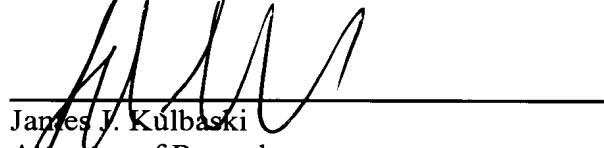
The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103 using Iwata et al., either alone or in combination. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Iwata et al. do not disclose a sheet including a plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line on an outer peripheral surface, are configured to receive fingers of a user and are for gripping the storage container, as recited in the amended form of Claim 13. Iwata et al. is concerned about the deformation of the storage container, and does not have features such as the claimed “plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line” recited in the amended form of Claim 13 which are configured to receive fingers of a user so that the user can better grip the storage container. Independent Claims 24 and 30 are patentable for similar reasons. The plurality of at least one of recesses and holes which are arranged in a line is novel and nonobvious as they are part of the sheet, and they indicate to the user where to place his/her fingers. These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 using Iwata et al. are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)